## Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau (AC&VB) Grant Application-Spring 2017

Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
ATTN: Steve Genovesi, Senior Vice-President, Sales
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700
Austin, Texas 78701
sgenovesi@austintexas.org

Date: 20 March 2017

## **Historic Property and Address:**

Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens 3505 W. 35th Street, 78703

## Applicant's Name:

Mayfield Park/Community Project (MP/CP) Friends of Austin Parks Tax I.D. 74-2380174

## Owner's Name:

Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) City of Austin

## **Contact Persons:**

Blake Tollett 3701 Bonnie Road 78703 512-541-5913 blake.tollet@earthlink.net

Karen Cannatti 2704 Macken 78703 512-453-7074 Neenok@aol.com

## Name of Project:

Mayfield Park Wall Safety Enhancement/Waterfall Rehabilitation

## **Description of Project:**

The grant monies will be used for two distinct projects:

- (1) Continuing a repair project started last fall, the bulk of grant monies will be used to add iron fencing to the historic rock wall that runs north and south on the eastern edge of the property. This section of wall stretches to either side of the pergola/overlook and defines the upper garden area. Beyond the wall is a precipitous drop off of some 20 feet into the preserve area. The repair of this portion of the historic rock wall began last fall through a grant by the Austin Parks Foundation with additional funding by the Mayfield Park/Community Project. The addition of the iron fence to the top on this low rock wall will add a measure of safety that has been deemed necessary by the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD).
- (2) The historic hourglass pond has a circulating aeration system housed in a low rock fountain structure. A water leak in the rock structure causes the loss of thousands of gallons monthly when in use. As a result, this pond system, which is one of the first features visitors encounter, does not function as intended. This grant will be used to dismantle the stone fountain to allow the City to repair water leaks and install a new circulating pump, and then the stone fountain will be rebuilt to replicate the original design.

If funded, these park improvement projects will not only provide a new level of safety for visitors but will also enhance the facilities users' experience when the waterfall/fountain is reactivated.

## **Historic Designations:**

The Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens are a registered City of Austin Historic Landmark and are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the defining features of the cottage and garden grounds is extensive rockwork evidenced in the surrounding rock walls, arches and gates, ponds and terraces.

From the National Register Narrative, Mayfield-Gutsch Estate:

"A low limestone rubble wall fully encloses the Upper Garden, with eight openings providing access to other areas of the estate. All eight, including the original main gate (Site Feature 2a) and the Bell Gate (Site Feature 2b), historically featured wrought iron gates. Several have been replaced by modern steel gates in keeping with the historic character of the originals. Changes in height, large stabilizing piers and stones of varying sizes enliven the wall's appearance. Completed by 1940, this system of enclosure is counted as a single contributing structure. Incorporated into this system, although distinctly separate, are two additional contributing structures. An overlook (Site Feature 10) graces the crest of the escarpment at the east of the Upper Garden, enclosed by a low rock wall with a ceremonial arched entry. Behind the house to the west, a square low walled enclosure (Site Feature 4) historically held the fire wood supply for the estate." (Emphasis added)

The National Register Narrative, Mayfield-Gutsch Estate further states:

"Comprised of a series of lily ponds classified as contributing objects, the water garden covers an area larger than the house itself. Executed in natural materials, rock terracing link the series of ponds. Immediately south of the house, an hourglass shaped pond (Site Feature 6) probably dates to the late 1920s. Anchored by a small stone turtle and a rock fountain at either end, this pond features an organic shape that may be a holdover of the Romantic gardens at the front of the property." (Emphasis added)

## **Amount of Funding Requested:**

To partially dismantle sections of the historic stone retaining wall, install iron fence posts, and then to reassemble the wall, we are asking for \$21,190.

To fabricate on site a 4-foot custom iron fence to attach to the installed iron posts we are asking \$17,000.

To dismantle and rebuild the rock fountain we are asking for \$3,440.

### In-kind Match:

In respect to the first part of our grant request, in the fall of 2016, MP/CP applied for and was awarded a \$35,700 grant from the Austin Parks Foundation, to begin an emergency repair to the north/south wall on the eastern edge of the cottage gardens. That emergency repair was completed this winter at a cost \$38,152 of which MP/CP contributed \$2,452 in cash. It was during site visits by PARD to this repair in progress that it was deemed of utmost importance that the safety feature of iron safety fencing be added to the project.

MP/CP is respectfully asking that the attachment of this City mandated safety feature to the historic rock wall be considered a continuation of the repairs begun last fall and that the Austin Park Foundation grant of \$35,700 and MP/CP's cash contribution of \$2,452 be considered as matching funds for this portion of our grant proposal.

In respect to our second proposed project, based on a bid of \$4,300, MP/CP will assume a 20% financial obligation for the completion of the project, or \$860. These monies are on hand.

In addition, we would respectfully ask that volunteer hours given to the Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens also be considered when evaluating in-kind matches. Volunteers play an extremely active role in maintaining and preserving the Mayfield gardens and caretaking of the iconic peafowls. At any one time there are at least 20 volunteers adopting and working in the garden areas, each volunteer giving at least four hours of time a month. Another group of volunteers have dedicated their services to the maintenance and well being of the property's peafowl population. Just recently the Austin Pond Society came and worked with PARD staff on cleaning the ponds and the repotting of the aquatic plants. The Mayfield Council, MP/CP's governing body, meets regularly on a monthly basis and as needed to fulfill their role as stewards of this jewel in the City's park system. These volunteer efforts, not only advocating for the park's maintenance but also in securing monies through fundraising and through donations and grants, go back over three decades now, and will continue for the foreseeable future.

There are no liens against the property.

/s/ J. B. Tollett

J. Blake Tollett-Mayfield Park/Community Project

## **Tourism Justification:**

Mayfield Park is open from 5a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. The public can freely enjoy the grounds, and volunteer led tours are also available through our website *Mayfieldpark.org*. A knowledgeable, long-time volunteer who individualizes each experience leads these tours. Tour groups have included master gardeners, public and private schools from the Central Texas area, and historical landscapes and gardens enthusiasts. In 2015, in conjunction with the City's Parks & Recreation Department (PARD), The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), and the Texas chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Mayfield Cottage and Gardens were featured in the "What's Out There Weekend Austin", an event that attracted more than 1,000 people who learned about landscape architecture, city shaping, local history, and stewardship of Austin's significant legacy of parks, historic sites, and public open spaces.

There is a visitor log just inside the entrance to the gardens. In 2016, 12,343 people signed the register. Obviously, this is not indicative of the total number of visitors. Based on years of experience, one person might sign in for an entire group or family, repeat visitors usually only sign in on their first visit, and others do not sign in at all. This number also does not include school field trips; school buses regularly bring children to Mayfield. It has been observed that residents and their families from nearby residential retirement complexes regularly come by the park, and finally, the nearby State Supported Living Center brings groups of residents and their families over to enjoy the park on a regular basis. So, while the actual number of visitors to Mayfield is much higher than the number stated above, it is a data point. On average, over 30 people sign in at Mayfield each day, and based on the sign-in sheets, we estimate that approximately a third of Mayfield visitors are out of town tourists. Based solely on our visitor logs (which, again, do not provide a complete list), in 2016 we had visitors from over 30 countries including Australia, Jordan, Canada, India, Norway, and Venezuela. Mayfield Park had 37 event bookings through PARD in 2016, which is almost one wedding or family gathering every weekend.

Mayfield promotes itself by hosting an annual garden symposium Trowel & Error that attracts community members as well as out of town garden enthusiasts. Additionally, a yearly newsletter is sent out to over 800 households across the nation with updates and news about the park. We also participate in the City of Austin's "It's My Park Day." New efforts include reaching out to local tour companies and providing them with information to add to their tour narratives. We are especially focusing on companies that offer historical tours since no other site in the Austin area with the architectural and landscape features of this era is available to the public. AO Tours, for

example, recently told us that their buses come by Mayfield three times a day, seven days a week.

We are also focusing on increasing our online and social media presence. In addition to our website *MayfieldPark.org*, we have a new Instagram feed that has gained over 150 followers in less than a month. Finally, Mayfield is commonly referenced in guidebooks such as Texas Travel Guide, USA Guide Book, and Frommer's Guide to Austin. And it is named a top historical tourist destination in the Austin Convention & Visitor Bureau's own brochure.

A Google search of Mayfield Park-Austin reveals a YELP rating of 4.5 stars based on 138 reviews and a TripAdvisor rating of 4.5 stars based on 134 reviews and is listed as #38 of 312 "things to do in Austin". Additionally, Mayfield Park and is mentioned on 365thingsaustin.com and is a feature on austinot.com and austindetours.com. Finally, Mayfield Park is the first location listed on the matadornetwork.com website as a place to visit on your first trip to Austin, and it is listed as one of the "10 Beautiful Gardens of Austin, Texas" on Theculturetrip.com.

## Recommendations from the AC/VB:

We were grateful to the Austin Convention & Visitor Bureau for their recommendations based on their review of our 2015 grant application. Because we believe that the suggestions will better the visitor experience at Mayfield, the Mayfield Council has recently been joined by an enthusiastic volunteer to focus on implementing your recommendations. Below is an update on the progress we have made.

-Partnering with tour operators that provide regular tours to out of town guests to places such as Mt Bonnell.

We contacted ten leading tour companies, with an emphasis on companies who offer historical tours of Austin (such as AO Tours). We discussed Mayfield with them, provided an informational sheet about the property and park (attached), and encouraged them to add information about Mayfield to their tour.

The reception to this effort was overwhelmingly positive. Every operator we spoke with was interested in receiving our information and spoke favorably of their own experiences at the park. For example, Lily at Austin Detours committed to adding information to her narrative and said she appreciated our call so much that she was going to visit the park that very day!

- Working closely to package with Laguna Gloria for an organized visitor experience.

Our new volunteer, Shawnee Barton Merriman, who is focused on implementing your recommendations, is an artist with a Masters degree from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and is excited about the possibilities of collaboration with the Contemporary. She has reached out to individuals she knows at that organization and is looking forward to building a relationship and visitor experience project with the organization.

# - Interpretive signage that provides details throughout the venue on historical significance of the venue

In February 2017, Shawnee met with the Exhibitions Curator at the Austin Nature & Science Center. He recently designed and produced impressive new signage for their facility and provided valuable insights on that process.

Our team is currently analyzing where we should place informative signs. Because Mayfield is a historical property, and because it has long been a priority to make visitors feel like they are visiting a home, it has been policy to not place any signs within the rock walls. But we agree that historical information should be provided to the public, so we are committed to finding a creative solution.

- Prominent welcome entrance with clear signage for a downloadable audio/ podcast providing a walkable tour throughout the property.

Again, we are in agreement that more clear signage is needed to welcome visitors and have made steps towards getting more welcoming, informational, and helpful signage on the property.

Additionally, we submitted a collaborative proposal to the Lola Wright Foundation for a project titled "Mayfield Trek: A Mobile Media Scavenger Hunt," with artist and UT professor Karen Kocher. Professor Kocher created a similar project at Barton Springs. This interactive experience would use Mayfield to educate visitors about subjects such as sustainability, art, and animal stewardship. Unfortunately, the foundation did not fund our proposal. However, we look forward to submitting a proposal for this ambitious and comprehensive project to other funders once we tackle our more immediate brick and mortar challenges.

- Outreach / marketing to convention groups - DMCs - destination management companies- to do events that can work around hour, noise and maximum attendance restrictions applicable to the gardens and the cottage.

We are proud to say that Mayfield is already one of the most requested venues on the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department website. People from all over the country (and world!) seek out Mayfield because they know what a memorable and special venue it is.

Still, to encourage even more out of town visitors, we are reaching out to several DMCs and providing them with the information we gave the tour operators as well as instructions for booking the property for events. We have also met with Lourdes Zahos, Tourism and Public Relations Manager, Austin Convention & Visitor Bureau, and Tiffany Kerr for suggestions on attracting more out of town guests.

## **Historic Documentation:**

Again, from the National Register Narrative, Mayfield-Gutsch Estate:

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAYFIELD-GUTSCH ESTATE

A prominent politician who served as chairman of the powerful Texas Railroad Commission, Allison Mayfield purchased this property in 1909. Documentary evidence suggests that he transformed an existing dwelling for use as a summer residence. Although his will inventoried this property as "The Home Place in Austin," the Driskill Hotel (1885; NR 1969) in downtown Austin continued to serve as his official residence until his death in January 1923. His daughter, Mary Mayfield Gutsch, continued to summer in the house and putter in the modest garden following her 1918 marriage to University of Texas history professor Milton Rietow Gutsch. Prominent in the early efforts of Austin's Violet Crown Garden Club, the Gutsches shared an intense interest in botany. After the 1924 death of Mary's mother, Lula Chapman Mayfield, they broadened their campaign of expanding both the house and garden. Their partner in this campaign, Esteban Arredondo began working for the Gutsches in 1922. He served as the Gutsches' gardener, butler, and chauffeur, while his wife Magdalena looked after the housekeeping. The Arredondos and their children for a brief time resided in one of the surviving outbuildings (Site Feature 5) behind the main house. Still living in Austin, their oldest son Steve was five years old when his family moved to the Mayfield-Gutsch Estate. Oral history interviews with him constitute the most accurate information available regarding the development of the gardens. Steve lived on the estate until his marriage in 1937, while his parents continued to work for the Gutsches until 1968 (Arredondo, 1992). The garden development was a collaborative effort between Esteban Arredondo and the Gutsches. He and Mary combed the land around Mount Bonnell and Lake McDonald (now Lake Austin) for native plants like mountain laurel, redbud, Mexican plum and yucca to transplant into the garden. He and Dr. Gutsch worked on heavier construction projects including the ponds, walks, and other structures. They completed the lily ponds by 1930 to house dozens of varieties of water lilies. Beginning with the front gates, they began construction of perimeter walls in 1932, finishing them by 1937. Although the Gutsches purchased local fieldstone for \$1.50 to \$3 per truckload to build the walls, they gathered native limestone on the property to outline the flowerbeds and build the rock garden. The Gutsches began planting native Texas palms (Sabal Texana) in the 1930s to give the gardens a tropical air. A 1935 Christmas gift of a pair of peafowl started a trend of animating the gardens. Frequent visitors to Mexico, the Gutsches often purchased colorful planters, pots and urns to place around the trees, terraces and walks. They never added formal statuary to the gardens, although they often made room for odd found objects in the various garden areas. While they continued to make minor changes in planting and add small features collected while traveling over the years, most of the major elements of the gardens were in place by 1940.

The resulting house and grounds formed a picturesque composition drawn from landscape styles prevalent during the early 20th century. The Gutsches made every effort to unify the house and landscape, adding a pergola, trellises, porches, foundation plantings, walks and terraces to dissolve the boundaries between the two. They personally cared for their gardens, watching them mature until his death in 1967 and hers in 1971. In her will, Mary Mayfield Gutsch deeded the property to the City of Austin for use as a public park. The Mayfield Park Community Project launched a restoration program in 1988 to ensure the survival of this significant resource. Current conditions of the grounds reflect their effort to recapture the garden's character at its peak by restoring the house as well as original plant varieties lost over time.

Attached to this grant request below is a picture of Dr. Milton Gutsch building rock walls at his home.



# Mayfield Park/Community Project:

Mayfield Park/Community Project (MP/CP) was formed in 1986 to restore the deteriorating house, outbuildings, ponds and gardens in the two acres within the rock walls. With community support, MP/CP commissioned and funded a master plan, developed by Gregory Free, which guides all restoration of Mayfield Park and was the foundational work for the park's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Since then, over \$400,000 in cash and more than \$500,000 in volunteer hours have been given by the community to rehabilitate the cottage's foundation, plumbing, interior and exterior, two original outbuildings, the flower beds, rock garden, pigeon cote, iron gates and to maintain the park's native trees. Also completed have been landscape lighting, irrigation, the restoration and sealing of 6 ponds, and periodic repairs of rock terraces, walls and structures that have deteriorated since being built in the 1920s and 30s.

MP/CP was the driving force behind Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) receiving \$350,000.00 from the City to be used for restoration and rehabilitation of various areas within the Mayfield Cottage. With those funds, under PARD's supervision, restoration of the kitchen and dining room, installation of HVAC, reconstruction of the Gutsch garage, renovation of two rooms designated for PARD offices, and finally, rehabilitation of the sun porch was completed.

In 2014 MP/CP facilitated the funding of an erosion control project that stabilized an important part of the gardens area and created a walkway that is no longer a safety hazard to visitors.

In 2015 MP/CP commissioned and completed a repair to the northeast section of the historic rock wall at a cost of \$37,434 of which MP/CP contributed \$15,000 in cash with the Austin Parks Foundation grant program covering the balance of \$22,434. Also in 2015 a Historic Landscape Treatment Plan of Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens focusing on its long-term preservation needs was commissioned by the MP/CP at a cost of \$25,200 to provide a comprehensive landscape preservation approach that will also preserve the authenticity of this historic site. \$10,000 of the cost of the plan was covered by a grant from the Austin Community Foundation with MP/CP contributing \$15,200 in cash.

# Certificate of Appropriateness for City Designated Landmark:

We have reached out to the City's Historic Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky to begin the Certificate of Appropriateness process. Once funding is secured but before a Preservation Agreement with AC&VB is executed, and in coordination with Kim McKnight, PARD, the required certification will be obtained.

# Project Budget and Competitive Bids:

## Expenses:

Project Part 1: Rock wall repairs Phase 1 (description provided in invoice from Ash Masonry)	<b>#</b> 20.150
Rock wall repairs Phase 2	\$ 38,152
Dismantling/reassembling wall and adding posts Addition of iron fencing to posts	21,190 17,000
Project Part 2: Fountain Repair	4,300
Total Expenses Parts 1 and 2	\$ 80,642
Revenue:	
Grant received from Austin Parks Foundation, rock wall	
repair Phase 1 Monies paid by MP/CP	\$ 35,700
iviones paid by Mir/Cr	2,452
Requested AC&VB Heritage Grants Cash on hand MP/CP	41,630
Cash on hand MF/CP	860
Total Revenue Received and Anticipated Parts 1 & 2	\$ 80,642

There are two estimates for the iron fencing itself from Allied Fence and Security and Austin Brothers Fence Company. The estimates are attached. Due to the project's inherent difficulties to evaluate and anticipate, in combination with the requirements necessitated by contracting with the City of Austin, we are having difficulty in finding another reputable fence contractor to provide an estimate. To date we have received declines to estimate from Barrier Fence Company, Viking Fence Company and Patriot Fence Company. MP/CP would respectfully ask that these two estimates be a benchmark for the funding needed to custom replicate the fence on site.

We are asking for \$17,000 in grant monies to supply iron fence posts to set in the rock wall and then to fabricate and install an iron picket fence to the posts.

The estimates are for posts being set on 6-foot centers with the insertion of uniform 4-foot fence sections, but the exact setting of the fence posts will depend on the location of the rock stanchions/piers that secure the running sections of the rock wall as well as the elevation changes on site. These possible installation difficulties can be seen on the photos submitted and will necessitate in irregular sized fence sections. Regardless, MP/CP and PARD will work closely with the contractor and any overage from the fence construction and installation will be bourn by MP/CP. We would ask that the AC&VB pay the contractor directly up to the grant amount awarded so that any cost savings would accrue back to the AC&VB.

Due to the fragile nature of the majority of the historic rock wall to which the iron fence will be installed, we would ask that the current mason doing repairs to the wall, Brian Ash and Ash Masonry Masterwork, be allowed to continue the work started last fall and set the fence posts without competitive bid. To set the posts will require the partial disassemble of the wall where the posts are set; care must be taken to ensure that the wall remains stable on either side of where the posts are set. A benefit of this means of attaching the fencing is that the wall around the area of attachment will become stable and in turn stabilize the entire wall to some degree. Ash Masonry Masterworks has completed three major repair projects at Mayfield Park and they are knowledgeable as to the precautions that must be taken. PARD and we are confident that they can accomplish the project successfully. Due to the current condition of the non-repaired portions of this section of the rock walls, neither of the companies submitting bids for the iron fencing would include the setting of the fence posts into the wall in their scope of work. Below is a proposed contract to do this work.

P.O. Box 2946. Windholm, Tenny 9646
Brian Ash: 222-488-2849 222-849-9986
Brian Ash: 222-488-2849 222-849-9986

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SUBMITTED TO:	Acreh 17, 2017
Friends of the Parks of Austin also Mayfield Park	k Mayfield Park Iron Fence Addition at Creek
Community Project ATTN: Bloke Tollens	Ciff Wol
2704 Mosken St., Austin TX 78703	3601 W. 35th Street
hore. bkws.tollett@somnlink.ret	Audin, Texas 75703
DESCRIPTION:	
1) The dismonthing of twenty-eight (28) section	rs of the historic stone retaining walls at Mayfield Park, to enable the
energiamoni of province maximizer concrete in	fills which will support steel tubing fence posts for a newly installed income
fence to be built obove the mosonry cop of t	the stone wall. The historic walls will be rebuilt to the original dimension
and design once the concrete is installed.	The state of the s
2) Six (6) hates will be drilled with a core bit t	o ollow insertion of the steel tubing posts in areas recently rebuilt by
Ash Masonry.	A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE
	TOTAL COST (materials and labor) = \$ 21,190.00
VI	The same transfer of the same
	compliated to a workmanifile manner according to crandard practices. Any afterestons or deuto- social only uses written orders, and will become an eatra drange over and above the adminis- yand our control. Owner to easily tine, formado and other necessary treatments.
	Autorial Section Electronic Signature: Brian A. Ash
	NOVE. The proposed may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within 30 days.
The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfication node as outlined above.	ucce prantice of Proposal son converted to do the work or specified. Asymptowill be
Beergeed	Signature
Note:	

For the dismantling and rebuilding of the stone fountain, because the attached total cost estimate of \$4,300 is under the \$5,000 threshold, Ash Masonry Masterworks' bid is the only submittal. (See attached Phase IX)

We are asking for grant monies of \$3,440 to dismantle and reassemble the historic stone fountain allowing the City to repair a water leak and install a new pump.

Bisaleb see-433-68 49 5 confergable

Accepted:

## Proposal

Foga no.1 of 1 poge(s)

Brim AA h (Amerikans SURMITTED TO: December 15, 2016 Andrew P Fitends of the Parks of Austin alba Mayfield Park Mayfield Park Wall Restaration Phase VILIX Community Project ATTN: Micke Tollette/Karen Connalit 3001 W 35th Street 2704 Morden St., Austin TX 78703 Austin, Texas 79703 blake tolletr@sortblak net DESCRIPTION: Phase VII 1) Ash Masonry will dismantile approximately 25 linear feet of stone wall bordering the parking area of Atoyfield Pork 2) A steel reinforced concrete foundation will be instolled. 3) The stone well will be rebuilt using stane from the park matching the style of the original stonework. 4) The well will be filled with 5000 PSI concrete. TOTAL COST fractionals and labori = \$ 15,821,00 DESCRIPTION: Phose VIII 1) Ash Mosenry will dismonth approximately 36 linear fast of stone wall along 35th Street which is colleging. 2) A steel reinforced concrete foundation will be installed. 3] The stone well will be rebuilt using stone from the park matching the style of the original stonework. 4) The woll will be filled with 5000 PSI concrete. TOTAL COST (ractionals and labor) = \$ 29,887.00 DESCRIPTION: Phose IX 1) Ash Mascory will dismortle the stone fountain adjacent to the historic Mayfield home to allow the city to repair water looks and install new pump. 2) The stone fountain will be rebuilt as also as possible to the original design. TOTAL COST (motertals and labor) = \$ 4,300.00 All noticed is guaranteed to be an operative. All work in to be completed in a workmanitie manner according to standard practices. Any abundens or devictions from above specifications involving axire costs, will be executed only apen writen orders, and will become on action charge over and obeyes his estimate. At agreements confugent upon studies, excitionis or delays beyond our contact. Owner to corry fire, terrado and other necessary insurance. Achieurd Sinches Electronic Signature: Brian A. Ash NOTE: The property may be withdrawn by as if not excepted with a began Acceptance of Proposal The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and any hereby excepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified.

Payment will be made as outlesed above.

Signatura

## Project schedule:

MP/CP is currently prepared to move forward on all of the proposed work. We have reached out to the City's Historic Preservation Office to begin the Certificate of Appropriateness process for the attachment of the iron fencing to the historic rock wall. It is anticipated the dismantling and rebuilding of the stone fountain can be administratively approved. Once funding has been secured, we anticipate the work will begin shortly thereafter with both projects completed before summer.

## **Proof of Ownership and Insurance:**

Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens are owned by the City of Austin and the City is responsible for specific insurance coverages. All contractual work at the park must meet City standards as far as insurance.

## Plans and specifications of proposed work:

Attached is an annotated survey of the property on which the estimates were based. The Allied Fence and Security, a pre-approved City of Austin/PARD contractor, estimate was shared with the other estimators as a basis for their proposals.

# ALLIED FENCE AND SECURITY

City of Austin PARD Kim McKnight

RE: Mayfield Park 3505 W 35th St, Austin, TX 78703

## Scope1: Custom Iron on Historic Wall

Allied proposes to furnish/install (205') 4' Custom Iron on top of historic wall. Allied shall attach all posts to wall via coredrill. Allied will custom fabricate all fence panels onsite for precise fit. Price includes all post set, fabrication, powder-coating of materials and clean for a turnkey project. Please review all details below for clarification of scope.

- All materials shall be commercial grade
- Allied shall set all posts via coredrill (Post set @ approx. 6' O.C.)
- Allied shall provide all materials powdercoated Black
- All materials shall be welded solid for longevity of fence system
- Allied shall work closely with stone mason to ensure a seamless construction process
- Fenceline shall stairstep with grade changes. Allied will work to minimize quantity of steps.

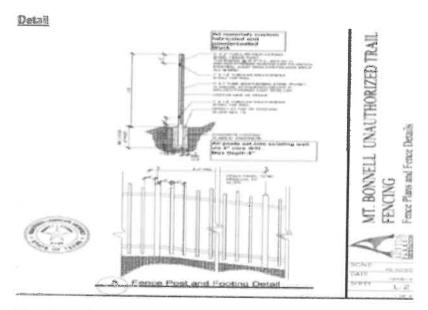
#### Material Specification

2" square x 14 gauge Posts 4" Tall Custom Iron (1 1/2" sq. rails x 1" sq. pickets) 3000 PSI concrete (or greater)

## Exclusions: Poor Wall Condition

- Allied's scope of work specifically excludes any repairs to existing wall
- Allied cannot warranty affects of fence attachment to wall.
   Coredifiling may cause damage to existing wall.

## ALLIED FENCE AND SECURITY



City of Austin Contract Breakdown
Original Material Cost = \$ 6,800,00
(1) COA Contract Item # 95/15% Discount on Material = -\$1,173.00 Deduction
Adjusted Material Cost per COA Contract = \$ 6,647.00

Labor Cost = \$8,653.00 Profit/Overhead @ 10% = \$1,700.00

Grand Total per COA Fence Contract = \$17,000.00

# Grand Total \$17,000.00

\*Construction must be completed in (1) Mobilization. Customer must approve layout before Construction. Any changes to scope or additions will add to contract total.

ALLIED FENCE WARRANTIES ALL CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR 2 YEARS, AND HONORS ALL MANUFACTURERS WARANTIES.

Josh Payne

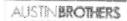
1/31/2017

Construction Vanagen Commercial Estimator

13250 OLD KIMBRO ROAD, RLING A \* MANOR, TEXAS 78553 OFFICE (\$12) 255-5416 \* FAX (\$12) 255-7095

www.austinfencecontractors.com

AUSIN PRODUCTS Pence Company 3505 S Lamar Blvd Ste D-109 #131 Ste D-109 #131 Austin TX 78704 United States



Blake Tollett 3505 W. 35th Street Austin TX 78703

Estimate# Estimate@ate

03905 March 3, 2017

Estimate Total (USD)

\$12,738.00

iask	Time Entry Notes	Rate	Hours	Line Total
Greeting	Hi Blake, Thanks for sending in all the details for your Quick Quote request! I've quoted for 200' of oustom iron fence installation according to your specs. Any specific contractual changes can be discussed at an on-site visit if you'd like to move forward (not price altering). The only adjustment to price that may occur is footage related or scope related.	0.00	a	9.00
	Go ahead and click the "Request Changes" button to message me directly, or click the "Accept" button to move forward and get a specin line for installation.  Therefor!			

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Line Total
40IFT	2017 of 4'H Custom Omamerical fron Flat Top 2" Galvanized Powder Coated Posts 1 1/2" Galvanized Powder Coated Rails 1" Galvanized Powder Coated Pickets	12,838.00	g .	12,838.00
	Installation Details:  - Posts set in core drills made by mason independent of ABFC  - Pre-fabricated and postderocated panels attached to posts on site with brackets or welds (customers preference, no price difference)			
Discount_QQ	Quick Quote Discount: \$100 Off	-500000	1	-(07)80

#### Terros

\*Customer is guaranteed completed work according to details on final accepted estimate

\*All work is covered by a 1 Year Installation Warranty. Manufactured products come with various material warranties (available upon request). Lumber products are not warrantied against warping, cracking, or twisting.

"Any deposit payment received is considered an acceptance of all contract details and terms "60% down payment required to reserve spot in line for installation, remainder of balance due upon completion (see below for additional payment term details)

"All work is covered by a 1 Year installation Warranty. Manufacturer warranties available on certain products (details available upon request)

"A travel fee of \$150 will be charged if installation is not possible on the agreed upon start date and no effort was made to inform Austin Brothers Fence Company of a charge

"Addual fence height may vary depending on terrain and style

"Any and all changes to this agreement dust involve additional costs will be dranged over and above the amount herein stipulated

\*Customer is responsible for obtaining any required building permits and agrees to pay all permit fees, violation fines, and labor costs for adjusting a fully or partially completed fence in the event of a Notice of Violation (or any similar form) from the city in which fence is constructed

\*Customer is responsible for providing property line locations and/or surveys and agrees to pay additional labor charges if desired fence line is not within their property and must be moved after installation.

\*Austin Brothers Fence Company recommends building fence lines and/or gales so that posts can be set at least 20" away from gas lines. In the event that a clients desired fence line requires post setting within 20" of a gas line, Austin Brothers Fence Company is not liable for any damages caused by digging.

'Austin Brothers Fence Company is not liable for damage to underground sprinkler lines, septic systems, or any other type of unwarked impation line. Sprinkler Insurance is available (upon request) to cover damage to regular sprinkler lines.

"Customer must pay any undisputed portion of the balance prior to resolution of disputed charges (charge orders and/or hourly labor charges).

"1% late iee charged 5 calendar days after job completion and every 5 calendar days thereafter until final payment received

"Buyer grants seller a security interest in each item described above in the event of nonpayment "In the event of a collection, buyer agrees to pay a 40% collection fee and all court costs and altorney fees

"Any and all warranties are void in the event of non-payment

'In the event of stain/sealer application, the 40% completion payment will be split into two (2) separate invoices - an invoice for the completed fence construction (remaining balance minus the cost of stain/sealer application), and a final invoice for the cost of stain/sealer application. Both invoices are due upon receipt and are subject to separate late payment terms.

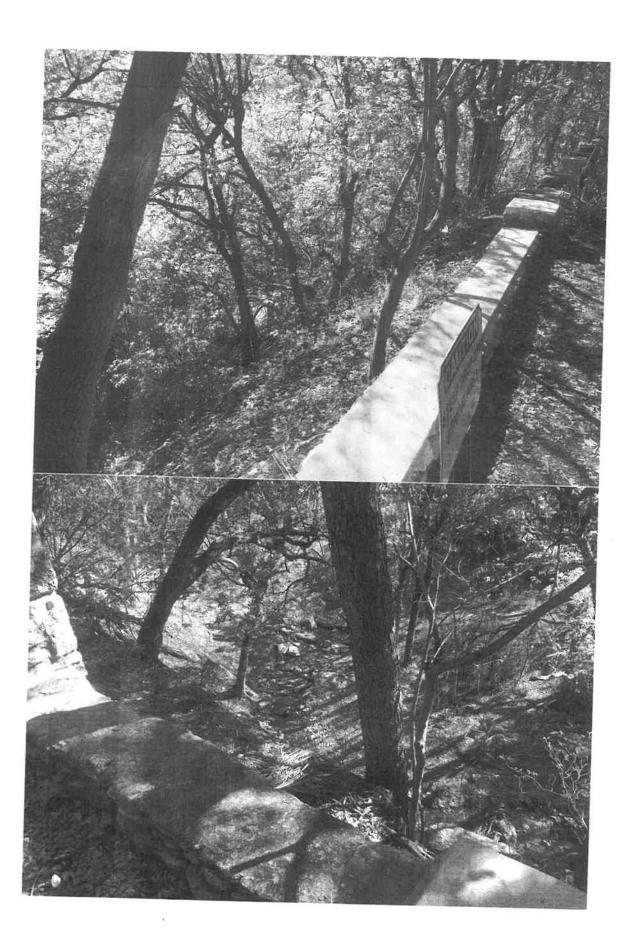
\*Austin Brothers Fence Company does not offer gate automation services and is not liable for any additional expenses, repair costs, or injuries that arise from third party gate automation installation.



The following photographs show the historic rock wall and attempt to show the precipitous drop off on the other side. The section of the wall with a lighter colored mortar cap is the section of

the wall repaired in the fall/winter of 2016-2017. Note the intermittent stanchions and elevation changes.





# Ceremony Localions

San Antonio

Riverwalk

Gazebo

Chapels

Restaurants

Indoor

Outdoor

Guest Count 0-4

Guest Count 5-20

Guest Count 20-35

Guest Count 35-50

Guest Count 50-75

Location Can Accommodate Dinner

Location Can Accommodate Reception

Austin

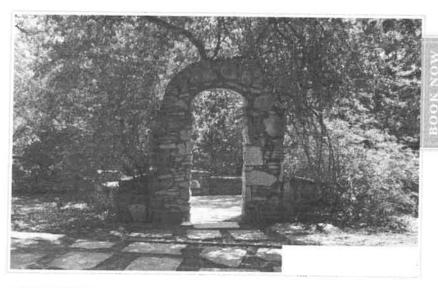
Corpus Christi

Beach

New Braunfels

Hill Country

# Mayfield Park



Book This Location

Download Price Estimator

This entire 23 acre estate of Mary Mayfield Gutsch was presented to the city of Austin in 1971 for all Austinites to enjoy as a park. Mayfield Park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Known for the many peacocks wandering the property, this park also features art installations, hiking trails, and a historic cottage that can be rented for parties.

Permit Fer: \$150 (2 hour time limit)

Parking: Free

Chuir Set Up: Optional

Alsle Entry: Yes

Public Restroams: No.

PA System for Music: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

Reservation: Based on availability

Weather: Rain or Shine

Outdoor/Indoor: Outdoor

Civil Ceremony

Starting at \$175.00

10-15 minute Ceremony with filling of license

Couple's Elopement Package

Starting at \$499.00

Intimate Couple's Package mount for just the Couple and their with uses

Small Wedding Package

Starting at \$609.00

Everything a complemends for a small ceremony

Mini Reception Packages

Startino at \$150,00

Added to any service. Cake cutting Toast and 1st Dance

RELATION PACKAGES

Video

Veronica and Ronald Millender Wedding at Mayfield Park in Austin



Overtusting Otopements

About | Service Partners | Love Notes | Reviews | Contact 210-860-5680

Book Your Ceremony Pricing and Packages Locations



Emails showing our efforts to engage More tourists by contacting tour companies. Mayfield Park <mayfieldparkatx@gmail.com>

## Mayfield Park

Cally (ATXcursions) <info@atxcursions.com>
Reply-To: ATXcursions <info@atxcursions.com>
To: Mayfield Park <mayfieldparkatx@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 9:33 AM

## Please type your reply above this line -##

Your request (6687) has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.



Cally (ATXcursions) Mar 6, 9:33 AM CST

Hey Shawnee,

Thanks so much for reaching out to ATXcursions regarding Mayfield Park.

Currently, we don't mention Mayfield Park to our customers, but we will definitely keep you at the forefront of our minds when recommending things to do for tourists. I have not personally been there yet and my interest has been piqued!

Again, thanks for reaching out to us and I will be recommending ya'll to our customers looking for outdoor activities and venue rentals.

Thanks!

Cally Kimmet Director of Sales 866-759-7375



Mayfield Park Mar 6, 4:36 AM CST

Hello!

I am a volunteer at Mayfield Park and am reaching out to give you some information about about the facility, which, as you may know, comprises a historic home with ponds and manicured gardens, resident flock of peacocks, and a 21-acre nature preserve with numerous walking/hiking trails. It is a unique

Austin Treasure, and visitors to the city looking for outdoor activities need look no further than Mayfield, which is less than five miles or a \$10 cab ride from downtown. It's a great place to easily get into nature while also experiencing one example of the natural beauty and quirkiness that our city is known for.

If you already mention Mayfiled on any of your custom tours or visit on corporate outings that you facilitate, we'd appreciate you letting us know! If not, we encourage you to add some of the information that is listed below (and also attached) into your narratives and recommendations for tourists. Our park is also a great event venue that can be booked through the city's parks and recreation department website. You can also get more information at Mayfieldpark.org or check us out on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/mayfieldpark/) . And please feel free to email us with any additional questions you might have. Additionally, on Saturday April 1, 2017 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, Mayfield Park will host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from all over Central Texas to hear experts give time—tested tips for beautiful gardens.

Best.

Shawnee Merriman

## 1. History

Ailison Mayfield, who was once Texas Secretary of State, purchased the twin-gabled cottage and 23 acres for his family as a summer and weekend retreat in 1909. He and his wife had one child, Mary Frances, who married Milton Gutsch, chairman of the UT History Department for many years, in 1918. As a young couple, Mary and Milton moved into the cottage in 1922 and added porches to three sides of the house, reflecting the Bungalow style of the early 20th century.

Mary designed the gardens while Milton directed the building of the stone walls, ponds, and garden features with the help of Steve Arredondo, resident gardener for many years. They were given a pair of peacocks from friends in 1935.

Dr. Gutsch died in 1967. Mary died in 1971 and left the home and acreage to the City of Austin to be used as a park.

## 1. The Peacocks and Gardens

Out of town visitors might be surprised to learn that Austin has its own flock of free roaming peacocks! At Mayfield, a couple dozen peafowl, some of which are descendants of the original birds given to the Gutsches, still live at Mayfield today live and roam the property freely. The peafowl like to lounge in the trees, on the rooftop, in the gardens, and wander the grounds.

Yearly Peafowl Activity: In the Winter the long tail feathers grow out on the adult males. In February, the males start fanning their tails to court the females. This continues throughout Spring when the peahens will sit on their nest of eggs. Nests appear in surprising places throughout the park and preserve. The peachicks hatch in late Spring, and the peacocks lose their long tail feathers in Summer, sometime between mid–July and the first part of August. People flock to the park during this time to gather peacock feathers.

The ponds are habitat for a variety of fish, turtles, frogs and snakes. It is common to see herons stop by to feed on the fish. They nest at the park and raise their young there.

## 1. Hiking at Mayfield Preserve

One doesn't need to leave central Austin to enjoy high quality trails or find a special nature experience. Here are descriptions of two of the many trails in the Preserve.

The Creek Hike takes visitors through native flora to a small tree covered creek, where one might glimpse turtles and minnows. This is an especially nice place to walk in summer, when the ankle deep water and cool air offer respite from the heat. Continuing beyond the creek, hikers will find large boulders for climbing or picnicking to the South. Plant lovers might enjoy going North to see some interesting pre-historic looking palms.

The Overlook Trail takes visitors around the other side of the preserve to a platform overlooking a tributary of Lady Bird Lake. It's a good place for quiet reflection and nature watching.

Because Mayfield's trails are intertwined, one can easily go for a quick lunch-break walk or spend an entire afternoon wandering into varied territory.

## Attachment(s)

Mayfield tourguide info.pdf

This email is a service from ATX cursions. Delivered by Zendesk

[NE8542-Q6WD]



Mayfield Park <mayfieldparkatx@gmail.com>

## **Mayfield Park**

Mary Davidson <mary@austinovertures.com>
To: Mayfield Park <mayfieldparkatx@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 7, 2017 at 6:01 PM

Hi Shawnee,

How nice to hear from you! The information you have sent is wonderful and I will be passing it on to our guides.

We have been showing off Mayfield park since we started providing tours in 2003. We come by 3 times each day, 7 days a week and the park is truly one of the highlights on our tour.

Thank you!!

Warmest regards,

Mary Davidson

President/co-owner,

AO Tours Austin & DMC for small/medium groups

**Austin Overtures Corp** 

Aotoursaustin.com

512-659-9478

From: Mayfield Park < mayfieldparkatx@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:44 AM

To: <info@aotoursaustin.com>
Subject: Fwd: Mayfield Park

[Quoted text hidden]



Joshua k

Level Contributor



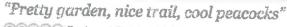
A 101 reviews



38 attraction reviews



28 helpful votes



● ● ● ○ Reviewed October 12, 2016

When we arrived we took the hiking trail, it was nice, relatively easygoing hike which took 30 minutes to do the whole thing while stopping for a picture or two and admire something pretty here or there. Note: you wont want to take a stroller on the trall. When we emerged after our loop we found the actual garden site,...

More =

Helpful?

Thank Joshua K

Report



John C Tucson

Level Contributor



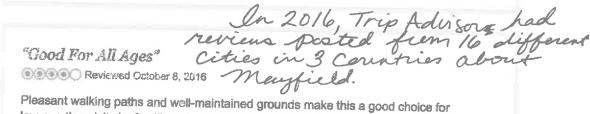
53 reviews



21 attraction reviews



25 helpful votes



low-exertion visits by families of all ages. The Mayfield Cottage anchors the estate. Watch for the peacocks in the trees and koi in the ponds. Well worth a visit.

Helpful?

the Thank John C

Report



Lamv T Milford, Delaware



Level 6 Contributor



A. 131 reviews



67 attraction reviews



87 helpful votes

## "See the Peacocks"

Reviewed September 27, 2016

Nice little park to visit if you are looking for something to do in the Austin area. It is not too far from Mount Bonnell. Nice easy trails around fish ponds, trees and interesting vegetation. Be sure to see the peacocks. Actually they will probably find you. They are not afraid of people and come very close. A very quiet,...

More Y

Helpful?



# Report



pammuj Austin, Texas



Level Contributor



52 reviews



47 attraction reviews

4 helpful votes

# "Beautiful place for small hiking"

Reviewed September 7, 2016

There are lots of peacocks with some fishes and turtles in the garden. Garden is not so great but the hiking trail is really a heaven, though the trail is very small (may be 1.5 miles) but its really beautiful and especially lake trail is very beautiful.

Helpful?



Report =



kendragayle24 Bethany, Oklahoma

Level Contributor



23 reviews



18 attraction reviews



3 helpful votes

"Lovely free park."

Reviewed September 8, 2016

uia mobile

Believe it or not, this park is absolutely free. There's also free parking, making this a perfect budget stop. The gardens are small, but beautiful. They feature lovely stone walls, ponds, a cottage tower, a sundial, and manicured garden beds. The best part is all the peacocks roaming the grounds. They're beautiful! We didn't explore the walking trail, only the...

More -



Washington DC, District of Columbia

Level Contributor



32 reviews



12 attraction reviews



4 helpful votes

## "Pea Party"

Reviewed August 28, 2016

via mobile

I have never met any peafowl before Mayfield, but those I met here have spolled me for others. These were friendlier and more docile peas than I expected. We were able to walk quite close to them without scaring them off. We also saw some lovely ponds with water lilies, tadpoles, flowers, and plenty of grackles. Nice place for a...

More

















See all photos

Helpful?

Thank Holly O

Report



traveleriNaustin Austin, Texas

Level Contributor





3 attraction reviews



15 helpful votes

# "Beautiful nature"

Reviewed August 22, 2016

If you like to relax and mediate, you need to visit here. It is amazing that so many peacocks live here. You see them cross the street sometimes as well. This is a place to visit during the cooler month and not in the hot summer. This is also a great place for taking pictures m

Helpful?



Report



hobokiwi New Zealand



Level 📵 Contributor



156 reviews



37 attraction reviews



32 helpful votes

# "More than I expected"

Reviewed August 22, 2016

It was a duli overcast day with the occasional shower but this did not dampen our enjoyment. The gardens and ponds are a delight to wander around but will not take you long. The tracks outside of the walled gardens are not too demanding and are a fantastic way to get away and enjoy the bush and river trails. We...

More \*



Helpful?



Report



Phoenix, Arizona Level Contributor



27 reviews



3 attraction reviews



2 helpful votes



Reviewed May 20, 2016

Very nice and peaceful park... Not to far from Austin. The best part are the peacock. Beautiful walking around all over and if you get lucky the will open their wings and show off the amazing feathers!!!

Helpful?



Report



Mandy H Nappanee

Amex Traveler



Level Contributor



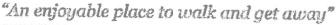
154 reviews



29 attraction reviews



21 helpful votes



Reviewed May 18, 2016

Based on the recommendations I saw here, we short listed the Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens as a thing to do when in Austin in Late April. I would recommend the traits for a nice walk. There are some trails that will lead you down to the waterfront. We enjoyed the grounds for the cottage and interacting (from afar) with...

More \*

Helpful?



Report



Holly V Jacksonville, North Carolina Level 1831 Contributor





5 attraction reviews



5 helpful votes

## "I love this little gem"

Filled with mothers and their little explorers, Mayfield is a beautiful place to take pictures, have a picnic, explore, or just retreat for some quiet time. It filled with fabulous peacocks, ponds with koi, and native plants. The trails are not to difficult for a newbie trail blazer and you will undoubtebly pass many mothers and her littles along the...

More



Helpful?

Thank Holly V

Report.



Texas USA traveler Fort Worth, Texas









19 helpful votes

# "Hidden Austin gem"





I've been to Austin many times but just recently came across this park. There are dozens of peacocks living in the garden next to parking lot. We enjoyed walking around and finding turtles and friendly squirrels. There is a hiking trail but I do not recommend that with young kids or with a stroller.



Report



Ann Arbor, Michigan Level E Contributor



(E) 30 attraction reviews



3 heipful votes

## "Was the only one there!"

Reviewed August 5, 2016

I visited on a weekend and was the only one there. It was a really peaceful and relaxing visit. I was able to take some great shots of the peacocks and photographed all of the butterflies that were fluttering around!

Helpful?



Report



timesareachangin Austin

Level Contributor



23 reviews



5 attraction reviews



3 helpful votes

# "Peacocks, Lily Pads, and Turtles....OH MY!"

Reviewed July 25, 2016

Peacocks, Lily Pads, Turties and Gorgeous Gardens cared for by local volunteers. Carefree walk through the gardens and around the 1800's cottage. Peacocks very used to humans gladly spread their feathers and parade around. Can see this part of Mayfield in 30 minutes or relax and hang around for as long as you would like. Note: pathways are rough so...

More \*

Helpful?



# Report



Frisco, Texas



## "Very pretty"

o o o o o Reviewed July 15, 2016

We go there to do light hiking through the pathways and see the beautiful cottage, gardens, and peacocks who roam around. Nice area, easy to go with younger kids.

Helpful?



# Report



42PinkGirl

Level 🕟 Contributor



75 reviews



10 attraction reviews



25 nelpful votes

## "Hidden Little Treasure"

☐ via mobile

No kidding - lots of peacocks to see! Beautiful creatures to watch freely roaming around the house strutting their magnificant feathers in full glory. After we enjoyed walking outside of the main house, property & gardens, we walked the trails. Absolutely gorgeous views. Greatly appreciated the benches and sitting areas along the trails. Lots of trees provided lots of shade...

More \*



1 Thank 42PinkGirl

Report



Amex Travelar



6 reviews

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Level @ Contributor

5 helpful votes

"Underrated. Hidden gem."

Reviewed June 9, 2016

A garden full of roaming peacecks? Sounds crazy but its true. This is an absolute must on any visit to Austin. It is very peaceful in the gardens and one can easily spend a couple of hours here. Try to go during the evenings, we noticed the peacocks were much more active during that time. A great spot for a...

More \*



and a substantial Fort Worth, Texas

Level D Contributor

3 reviews

(A) 3 attraction reviews

## "Peacocks: up close and personal"

(a) (a) Reviewed 6 days ago

ivilayfield Park is a quick 10 minutes from downtown, and has walking/hiking paths and peacocks on the grounds. It's a nice and quiet getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city. Most (if not all) of the peacocks were around the Mayfield House on our visit, which is to the left upon entry. If you're just there to see...



Helpful?

Thank angelkwill

Report



capitollover Austin, Texas

Level Contributor



708 reviews



363 attraction reviews



384 helpful votes

"Well maintained gardens w/peacocks and rocky trails on the 21 acre site"

●●●●○ Reviewed 1 week ago

Great things about this site: shady and beautiful, and NO dogs (no pets allowed). A word of warning though: the trails are very uneven, with rocky and roots, as well as trees bent over the trail. If you have mobility issues, just peruse the lovely gardens. The trails are well marked and well maintained, but my husband had a hard...

More \*

Helpful?

the Thank capitollover

M Report



Alexandria, Virginia Level Contributor



A 85 reviews



(A) 27 attraction reviews



34 helpful votes

"Peacocks Galore!"

(a) (a) (b) Reviewed 3 weeks ago

If you love peacocks you have to check this place out. The peacocks are strutting around all over and are absolutely amazing to see up close and in their natural habitat. Beautiful tralls also for hiking.

Helpful?

the Thank Alice C

Report



Jeff H Austin, Texas Level @ Contributor



A 8 reviews



5 helpful votes

"Favorite Park"

● ( ) ● ( ) ● Reviewed 3 weeks ago

Mayfield is probably my favorite park in Austin. Beautiful grounds are well-kept. Love seeing all the peacocks and collecting feathers in late summer.

Helpful?



Report



rinkqirl27 San Antonio, Texas Level Contributor



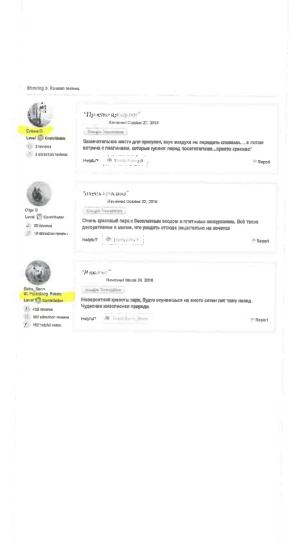
921 reviews

"Birds"

Reviewed January 30, 2017

I hiked the trails one morning and it appeared that the peacocks and other birds do too lol. It was a nice early morning walk through the woods with them even if I was more fond of them being there than they were of I





# A SAMPLE OF QUOTES LEFT IN VISITOR LOG AT MAYFIELD PARK IN 2016

Beautiful. Thank you so much.

Simply incredible.

No words to describe! Lovely

Good attempt to preserve the nature (India)

We love it so much.

So, so beautiful (Calgary)

Been here 4 + years. Best place in Austin. This is spectacular!

Lovely, quiet, serene, restorative.

Incredible City gem! Bellisimo"

Thank you for preserving such a magical place.

Beautiful birds in a beautiful setting

Great for stress relief.

Thank you for preserving such a magical place...

Lovely, quiet, serene...

We were married here 14 years ago today...

Beautiful birds in a beautiful setting...

I've been coming here for over 20 years. It is sacred to me. Thank you for maintaining its beauty all this time!...

A true escape to the beauty of nature.....NY

Really tranquil. A good place to come think...

Best park in Austin. Peaceful...

I've been coming here for over 10 years. Thanks for keeping it public!

Thanks for sharing God's gift.

This is a very unique park. It is so wonderful. CA

Great peaceful paradise in the city...

It looks like paradise...a beautiful gift to Austin...

Wonderfully inspiring. The beauty of Nature abounds...

Austin Events Calendar Sponsor Invite Write Giveaways About Contact

This piece does a good jub mentioning the tour saptism at Mayfield.

The ISTINITY

**DISCOVERIES** 

FOOD & DRINK

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**CULTURE** 

**ET CETERA** 

# Find Serenity and Peacocks Mayfield Park

JULY 23, 2014 BY KELLI MCDONALD

0 COMM





Cottage at Mayfield Park

eeeeYAH eeeYAH eeeeYAH! That's the best war can describe the peacock chorus greeting I real when I walked into Mayfield Park. This gorgeou estate located in West Austin features these be birds, trail systems, gardens, and a historical h

Purchased in 1909 by Texas Secretary of State Texas Railroad Commission chairman Allison Mayfield, the property was meant to be a sum getaway home for his family. In 1922, Mayfield

daughter, Mary, and her husband, Dr. Milton Gutsch, moved into the home and set beautiful chainto motion.

#### Photogenic Peacocks

In 1935, the Gutsches received a pair of peafowl as a Christmas gift. Today, there are roughly 18 peafowl that call Mayfield Park home, and many of them are descendants of the original pair.

There are two types of peafowl: the India Blue male and grey hen, and the Black Shouldered male and white hen. While I was there, most of the peacocks fanned their tail feathers out periodically while photographers snapped photos. The peahens looked on, disinterested. Soon, they will lose their ornate tail feathers (late July/August) and visitors may take home any feathers they find.

Most of the peafowl can be spotted on the grounds, but they're known to travel next door to Laguna Gloria, the country club, and the trail system behind the park.

#### Happy Trails

Outside the walls of Mayfield Park lies the Mayfield Nature Preserve. There are three entrances to relatively easy hikes along dirt and rock trails. Helpful klosks and posts are placed along the walkways, and I came across a beautiful water view on one of the trails.



Mayfield Park's peacocks never run from opportunities

Colorful Gardone

The Gutsches buil

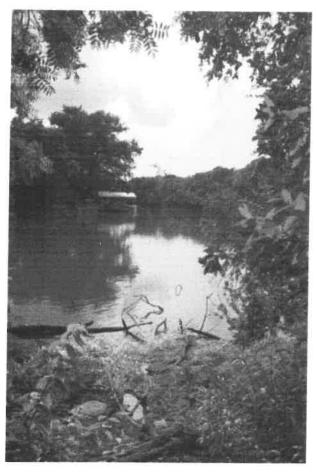




B4ADVENTURE ...

\$99.99

Arredond



Beautiful water view from one of the trails at Mayfield Nature Preserve

their gardener. He lived on the property with his and children. Their small home is still on the gr and now holds visitor information. The vision the Gutsches and Arredondo achieved gives visito many wonderful things to discover.

The six large ponds are arranged in the shape flower. They're home to koi and various fish, tu snakes and beautiful lilies. There is also a smal ornate brass pond next to the cottage that wa imported from France.



Pond and dovecote at Mayfield Park

Beyond the ponds are rentable garden spaces. Community members keep their gardens for ye and their commitment shows. Near the gardens is another stone structure, a dovecote, where Moorhead pigeons were kept. The concrete cubbies for the pigeons can still be seen inside. No is a birdbath that was built with a slant so that birds could easily walk in.

These ponds, stone structures and gardens make Mayfield into a uniquely whimsical and tranquely park.

#### Past to Present

In 1971, Mary Mayfield Gutsch passed away, and in her will she gave her property to the City of to be used as a park. Unfortunately, by the late 1980s, the park was in disrepair. Volunteers for council to work with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to restore the land to its origin glory. A fundraiser featuring lectures and a raffle called Trowel and Error takes place every year to money for upkeep and repairs to the park.

Tours of the grounds are available or you can peacefully explore on your own. I was fortunate enough to get a tour from volunteer and Mayfield Council member, Sharon Lamb. Sharon has been on the council for over 11 years, and she even has photographs of Mayfield Park from the '70s when she visited with her mother. Passionate and caring people like Sharon have kept this historic park the way it was intended to be – a serene getaway that helps keep Austin beautiful.

#### **Details for Your Visit**

Mayfield Park is located at 3505 W 35th Street. It's free and open daily. There's a small, convenient parking lot, and gates are closed between 10 PM and 5 AM. Please do not bring any pets. Mayfield can be rented for small events. More information can be found at MayfieldPark.org.



Mayfield Park's volunteer gardens

Kelli McDonald is an artist and writer living with a surly, polydactyl cat named Moyra. If you wan see what Kelli's up to, follow her on Instagram.

#### @theAustinot asks:

#### When was your last visit to Mayfield Park?

We always have unique content on the *Austinot*, and we love to give things away. You know, lik event tickets and other cool stuff. We only send out our *Best of the Austinot* newsletter 2 times month. It's where we give you a recap of our best articles and where we give stuff away.

Interested? Subscribe to Best of the Austinot here!



FILED UNDER: ACTIVITIES, DISCOVERIES TAGGED WITH: WEST AUSTIN



Be the first to comment.

#### ALSO ON THE AUSTINOT

#### Do You Know the History Behind Austin's Mount Bonnell?

5 comments • a month ago•



Andrea Elkins - How fortuitous that this piece was linked from today's newsletter - another guest at the RV park I'm staying at just ...

#### Sing Along at These Austin Karaoke Bars

1 comment • 4 months ago.



Jolean — So fun! I thought The Highball had closed the private rooms, but I am so happy to hear that they have not!

#### 8 Must-See Texas Hill Country Holiday Trails

4 comments • 3 months ago•



lynette355 — Central Texas on Hwy 377 between Stephenville and Brownwood

#### Trail of Lights Celebrates 50 Years of Spinning Under the Zilker Tree

1 comment • 4 months ago •



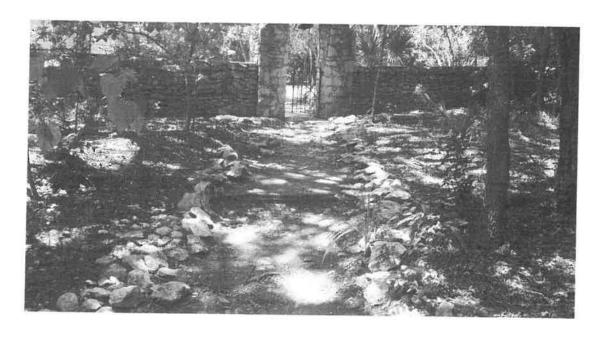
Tyler Price - This looks awesome. 50 ye together is incredible. Friends of mine fr www.yobored.com are going to this eve

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(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)

#### Notes before you go:

- Sometimes the Mayfield gardens are closed to the public for private events, but the trails a open every day no matter what is going on in the gardens.
- This hike is appropriate for small kids, even toddlers. I took my surefooted 20 month old, todd want to be carried a bit. My 3 year old was in his element and ran ahead the whole time.
- This trail is not stroller friendly. The trails are full of roots and large rocks. There are stairs around the creek.
- Long pants would be a good idea, so you can slide down from the caves and in case you
  into a patch of poison ivy, but they aren't necessary.
- Take water. Even when the weather is nice, the sun and heat can really creep up on you.

Posted: April 17th, 2014

On the other side of the creek, a short walk takes you to the base of a steep bank where you ca climb up to the overhanging rocks, or "caves." The climb is steep and small children might need help. Getting down is best attempted by sliding on your butt, at least according to the kids we interviewed.



(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)

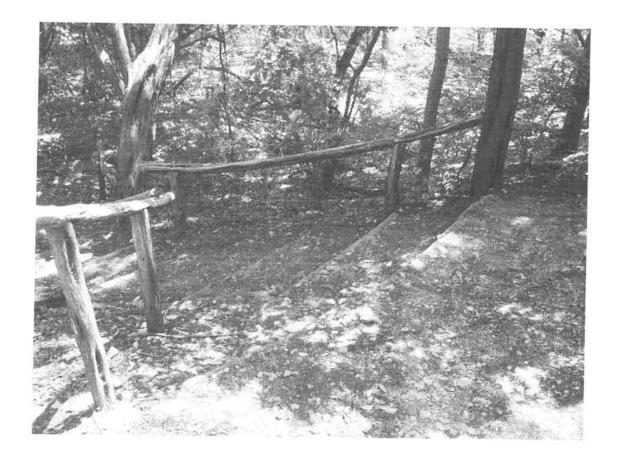
Taking this trail north, watch for the fork to the left and it will take you back across the creek. The banks here are a little steep and you will need to climb a bit. Then the trail loops back up the hill east gate of Mayfield gardens. You should be able to see the garage and the tower as you get c





(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)

To the east of the map (if you head left instead of straight), the path winds through shady trees a patches of wildflowers before descending down a small set of stairs to the creek. Large rocks have been set into the creek bed for crossing.



(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)



(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)

Heading straight past the map is a shady area that slopes down to Lake Austin. Follow it to righ down the hill until you see the water. There are a few spots that are perfect for throwing rocks in lake. You can follow this trail to the west where it will eventually spill out onto the ground at the Austin of Art and then you can loop back around to the Mayfield parking lot.



the trail so you can meander through the woods with your kids and know what to look for and el

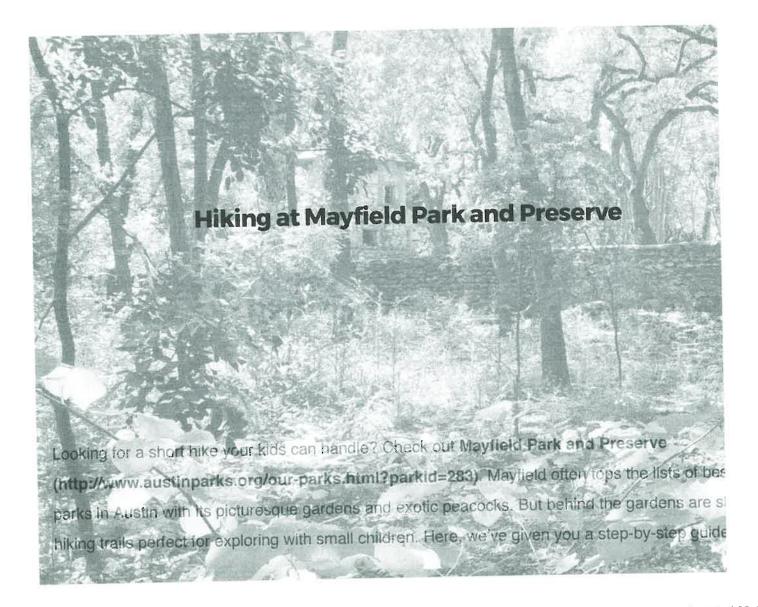
To start your hike at Mayfield, find the picnic tables outside the main entrance to the gardens an head to the right – you will see the trail next to the Mayfield Park and Preserve welcome sign. Y may see peahens and peacocks dusting themselves or taking a break from the heat. They ofter out here in the morning.



(http://do512family.com/2014/04/mayfield-preserve/)

Next stop: the map. Mayfield Park is bound by the Contemporary Austin Laguna Gloria (http://family.do512.com/venues/the-contemporary-austin-at-laguna-gloria) to the west an lake to the south, and the trails wind around in small loops, so you run a very small risk of gettir

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#### **Mayfield Park**



Posted by Alisha McDarris



#### Mayfield Park and Nature Preserve

Austin, United States

Go get screamed at by peacocks. Didn't know peacocks screamed? Then you haven't been to Mayfield Park. There's an historic home, hiking trails, and lots and lots of peacocks just wandering around the property. Take a stroll around the gardens, spot the peacocks in the trees, and don't forget the camera to capture the guys showing off their feathers (and I don't mean hipsters with hair accessories). #animals #hiking

DOWNLOAD THE APP

travelstoke

Go get screamed at by peacocks. Didn't know peacocks screamed? Then you haven't been to Mayfield Park. There's a historic home, hiking trails, and lots and lots of peacocks just wandering around the property. Take a stroll around the gardens, spot the peacocks in the trees, and don't forget the camera to capture the guys showing off their feathers (and I don't mean hipsters with hair accessories).







lyndsay\_photography

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lyndsay\_photography Mayfield park is a fantastic location for. Bridal session! What a gorgeous bride Melissa is!

#bridals #bride #mayfieldpark #weddingdress

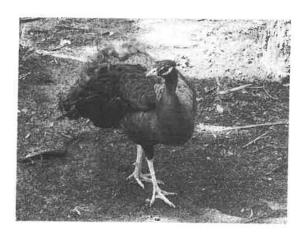
xyskinandbody 🎥



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kvuenews Thank you @austinstateofmind

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pressmanstudio Mayfield Park

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pressmanstudio Congrats Ken and Angie!

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Department » Parks And Recreation » Locations » Park Of The Month » May Park of the Month: Mayfield Park

#### PARK OF THE MONTH

#### May Park of the Month: Mayfield Park May 31, 2012 - 11:13 am CDT

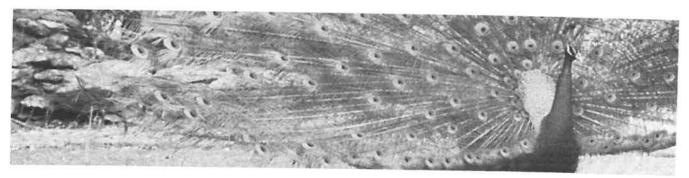
#### Historic buildings, colorful gardens and brilliant peacocks create a unique feel for this Austin oasis.

Stepping into Mayfield Park is not unlike stepping into an oasis. Towering palm trees, lush gardens and brilliant peacocks gather around the ponds, all of which is surrounded by a rock wall and the "desert" of a city beyond.

Mayfield is a metaphorical oasis, too. People from all walks of life visit the park as a respite from their busy days. Whether they are there to gather artistic inspiration, to be one with nature while doing yoga or just to get some quiet time from the office, visitors come to Mayfield to bask in its cool, calm and collected feel.

#### **TAGS**

parks
Mayfield Park
peacocks
park of the month



The park's 23 acres boast a picturesque cottage available for wedding and event rentals, unique ponds covered in water lilies and the beautiful peacocks for which the park is known. Visitors of Mayfield may find the peacocks basking in the sun, roosting in the trees or simply strutting around the park. The sight of the birds and the sounds of their calls make visiting Mayfield Park an incredibly unique experience.

Mayfield is home to a variety of other wildlife as well. Blue and green herons dot the trees while koi fish and turtles swim in the ponds beneath the water lilies. Palm trees - the largest stand of Sabal Texana palm trees north of the Rio Grande River - provide a shady respite from the summer sun. Walking paths twist through cottage gardens full of heritage plants maintained by community volunteers.



Volunteer gardeners receive help from the Mayfield Park / Community Project when choosing

heritage plants for their gardens. Randomly mixed flowers provide year-round color, texture and fragrance to the 32 volunteer beds. The sweet aromas and bright colors of the flora planted in the gardens - along with the soft breeze and cool shade provided by the park's multitude of trees - lure visitors and volunteers alike to the area.



The cottage gardens, as well as the rest of Mayfield Park's features, are reminiscent of an earlier era. Austinites can look to Allison Mayfield and his daughter for the beginnings of this lovely oasis. Allison purchased the park's cottage and 23 acres for his family as a summer home in 1909. His daughter, Mary, and her husband, Milton Gutsch, moved into the cottage in 1922 and proceeded to add rooms to the house, design the gardens and build the stone walls, ponds and garden features. Mary Mayfield Gutsch died in 1971 and left the home and acreage to the City of Austin as a park.

Since then, the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has had tremendous support in maintaining Mayfield Park.

Restoration of the cottage and gardens is coordinated by the Mayfield Park / Community Project, which has an agreement with PARD to facilitate improvements within the rock walls at Mayfield. The group works from a preservation master plan, and restoration proceeds as funds become available.

Austin's own Karen Cannatti has been active with the volunteer organization since it started receiving funds in 1986. She hopes the organization will continue to share Mayfield's impressive history with others. "Few people know the historical significance, which is an important part of the park," she explained. "Basically, because [the organization] developed a master plan, our purpose has been to restore the cottage and ponds to its original time...We like to say that we, all of us, are guests of the Gutschs."

Restoration efforts have been very successful thus far. According to Cannatti, members have "basically restored the house from roof to plumbing." All of the park's features, from the bright cottage to the colorful gardens, enable visitors to envision the area as it once existed - including its beloved peacocks. Cannatti said that the birds "were given to [the Mayfield-Gutsch family] as gifts in the 1930s." The peacocks of today's Mayfield Park descend from that first flock.



With all of its beauty and splendor, it is no surprise that so many volunteers and visitors regard Mayfield Park as an Austin oasis. When asked what she would say to attract others to the park, Cannetti replied, "You've got nature and trails. You have just beauty, quiet beauty. You have a historically significant bungalow-style cottage from the 1800s. You have the oldest extant gardens in this part of Austin. It's all historically significant, and it's peaceful...and a lot of people just come here for respite."

Mayfield Park is located at 3505 W. 35th St. in Austin, Texas.

Tagged: parks, Mayfield Park, peacocks, park of the month

Share: 🖪 📃 🤿

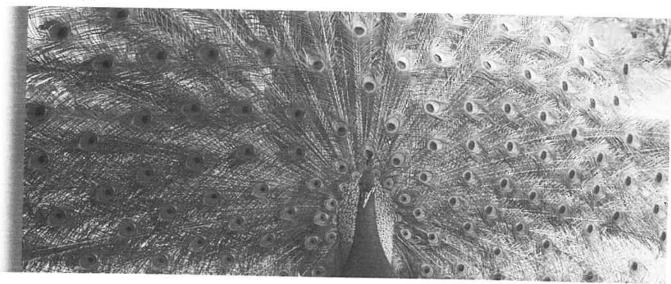




Mayfield Park Community Project

- Home
- Mayfield Park Overview »
- Mayfield Park / Community Project »
- News Update 2016 »
- The Volunteer Gardens »
- Workdays and Events
- Fundraising, Donations and Active Projects
- Educational Materials





#### Trowel & Error April 1, 2017

TROWEL & ERROR! Saturday April 1, 2017 On April 1, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, Mayfield Park will host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from all over Central Texas to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens. Although...

#### **Read More**

#### **Mayfield Park / Community Project**

MP/CP is a volunteer group dedicated to restoring and improving Mayfield Park. The Mayfield Council is an advisory group within the MP/CP and meets

monthly to discuss Mayfield Park related projects. Both groupswork very closely with PARD, The MP/CP has been active at Mayfield Park since the mid 1980s.

Vision: Mayfield Park/Community Project, sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, a non-profit corporation, is restoring Mayfield Cottage and Gardens to the height of its development in the era of the 1920's-1950's. Funds have been raised through grants, foundations, and individuals since 1986. Working from a preservation master plan, restoration phases are proceeding as funds become available. The park is under the supervision of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

### Park visitors can view the history at Mayfield Park with the new sign at the entrance:



#### **PARD Information**

#### **Mayfield Park address:**

3505 W 35th St, Austin TX 78703

Hours: open on a daily basis and closed between 10 PM and 5 AM

\*\* No Pets Please \*\*

Reservations: For information on reserving the cottage and/or grounds please

call PARD at 512-974-6797 or visit the PARD Events Website Page.

**Photographers:** Mayfield Park has become an extremely popular place for photography. PARD has policy for commercial and professional photographers.

Click here to visit the City of Austin PARD Parks Special Events Page for photography policy at Mayfield Park.



PARD uses some of the small rooms at Mayfield Park as offices.

#### **Donations**

**Capital Project Donations** can be made through Austin Community Foundation. Two Mayfield Park funds are available, a Mayfield Park Community Projects Fund and a Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens Endowment Fund.



Mayfield Park Community Projects Fund



Mayfield Park Cottage and Gardens Endowment Fund

Visit a Facebook Page for Mayfield Park and Preserve:



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CALENDAR SUBMIT AN			EVENT			'	'	
HOT TOPICS MARCH 8, 2017		MARCH 8, 2017	WEEKEND TOP 10 FREE EVENTS: MARCH 10-12,		SEARC	SEARCH		

### Mayfield Park + Mount Bonnell

**TOPICS:** Free Activity Free Event Free Fun In Austin Free Outing Mayfield Nature Preserve Mt. Bonnell POSTED BY: HEIDI GOLLUB JULY 23, 2013

Today I present to you a two for one outing idea! Don't you feel lucky?

This week we headed to Mayfield Park for our adventure, then skipped over to Mount Bonnell for a climb.

Mayfield Park (3505 W. 35th St) is one of my favorite places to visit when we need a little something different to do. Open to the public and maintained by the Austin Parks and Recreation, Mayfield Park features festive gardens, tranquil ponds, scenic trails, lush lawns, and beautiful, historic structures. And

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#### peacocks!



The peacocks are definitely the highlight of Mayfield Park, at least for kids. They roam the grounds freely, dotting the trees and strutting around the lawns, their calls echoing throughout the park and giving guests a thrill.





FREE FUN CALENI



I did a little (and I do mean little) research on Mayfield Park, and found out that the 23 acres of land was originally purchased in 1909 by Allison Mayfield for his family as a summer home. Allison's daughter Mary moved into the cottage with her husband in 1922, adding onto the house and designing the gardens, ponds, and water features. Mary died in 1972, leaving the land to the city, and since then, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department has worked to maintain and restore the structures and gardens to its original glory. I'd say they're doing a good job.









Stone walking paths wind themselves around the gardens and the ponds, which are chock full of lily pads, lotus flowers, and large koi fish if you keep an eye out. The park is very well shaded, which was a great relief on this hot day. Most of the peacocks were perched in the trees, but we finally found a good number of them wandering around the north side of the cottage.

Spring time is by far the best time to visit Mayfield Park if you're looking to get a good plumage show from the peacocks. They show off those feathers left and right during mating season. On this hot summer day, we didn't get any good feather views. In fact it looked like the peacocks were molting. But they were still as beautiful and majestic as ever.











Find tacos, cheap dinner, Max's Near Austin, TX, US Restaurante Nightlife **Home Services** Write a Review Events yelp: Mayfield Park Outstained 138 reviews Details Parks 📝 Edit Map cala 52017 Googla 9 3505 W 35th St Austin, TX 78703 Tarryton/Exposition Blvd. Get Directions **4** (512) 974-6797 Photo of Mayfield Park - Ass TX, United States by Hollie B. Maylieldpark.org "There is very limited parking so if you are coming for an event I recommend showing up hella early and enjoying the grounds." in 15 reviews "A nice little park that's like a tucked away little haven - and it has peacocks too!" in 109 reviews "If you follow it far enough, the creek trail will take you onto the grounds of Laguna Gloria next door," in 6 reviews Ask the Community Yelp users haven't asked any questions yet about Mayfield Park. Recommended Reviews for Mayfield Park Your trust is our top concern, so businesses can't pay to alter or remove their reviews. Learn more. Search within the reviews Sort by Yelp Sort Language English (138) v SB B. Austin, TX 0 friends 66 reviews

Start your review of Mayfield Park.

This place is absolutely beautiful! My husband and I went

for the first time yesterday and spend about a good hour

book in the front so make sure to sign in when you come :)

My only complaint is that they should probably have a sign in the front stating to not feed the peacocks human food,

here admiring the peacocks. They even have a sign in

3/1/2017

24 & 39 yelp reviews since dan 1, 2016 are from visitors that list their residence as being outside of Austin. That's over half!

See all 292

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You might also consider

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Town Lake Metropolitan Parks

00000 170 reviews it's fun to walk and see events getting set up on Auditorium Shores--concerts, flugtag...

Kalia B.

Houston, TX

3 15 friends

59 reviews

24 photos

We saw some people feeding them their funch and it was rather annoying. I know you want to make nice with the birds but don't kill them unintentionally in the process. Ham sandwiches and chips aren't for peacocks to eat people!







See all photos from Kalia B. for Mayfield Park





3/1/2017

1 check-in

E Listed in Austin: Day Activities

If you love seeing and taking pictures of peafowl, this is your place! They have so many beautiful peacocks throughout the year. If you are here for the peafowl, park closer towards the entrance and walk towards the building/house. Within this area you will find the peafowl everywhere! If you want to hike, you can park towards the far end and walk the trails.

The park is completely free and has it's own private parking lot.





Elite 177

1/1/2017

🌼 i check-in

"No way, that's not real!" was pretty much what I yelled to my boyfriend when he said we should go here to see peacocks.

We were an hour too early for sunset at Mt Bonnet (yay Lesile) so we decided instead of waiting around, we should make our way here. It's a bit risky to walk down the road (especially the curves) so I would highly recommend to be in a car. However, walking is possible JUST BE ALERT

McKinney Falls State Park

129 reviews

We hiked the homestead trail, then went over to the upper falls area.



Mount Bonnell

268 reviews

Great easy hike, beautiful view of the Colorado river.

#### Lists including Mayfield Park



SEX.

Like sex, these reviews are about something that is free and beautiful...

9 businesses



Exercisimus Maximus When the weather's nice, I go hiking, walking, and sceneryviewing at ...

5 businesses



TEXAS Because for some reason the Lone Star state just keeps

calling me back... 15 businesses

More Lists

#### Browse nearby

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#### Work at Mayfield Park? Claim your business

- Respond to reviews and customer messages
- · Claiming is free, and only takes a minute

#### People found Mayfield Park by searching for...

Tent Camping Austin

Walking Trails Austin

Toddler Activities Austin



Amiga A.
Austin, TX
1 friend
53 reviews
81 photos

2/14/2017

: 1 check-in

Who would give this place less than a five star.. there are numerous peacocks that I saw the day I visited and this place is awesome I did not know the peacocks would fly. This is a very serene place if you want to come in and meditate or do yoga or just relax and watch scenic beauties and stuff... I saw a lot of couples just come in the room just sit and hang out. This is an excellent place for photography. I saw few couples getting their wedding photos taken. There's a sign that says do not cross this point. There are very few parking spots but we got lucky because they're weren't a lot of people when we came in. This is a very small place but it's worth the time spent. Overall I would definitely go back 5/5.



Little ponds all around :) loving it





Warning sign

Nice arch like structure

See all photos from Amiga A. for Mayfield Park



1/1/2017

"No way, that's not real!" was pretty much what I yelled to my boyfriend when he said we should go here to see peacocks.

We were an hour too early for sunset at Mt Bonnell (yay Leslie) so we decided instead of waiting around, we should make our way here. It's a bit risky to walk down the road (especially the curves) so I would highly recommend to be in a car. However, walking is possible JUST BE ALERT AND CAREFUL!!!

When we made our way down, we assumed the peacocks would be in the trails. Actually, they were simply at the house itself in the front. Walk in and walk around in

amazement, PEACOCKS, EVERYWHERE.

Did you knew they fly? Neither did I.

As with any animal, approach with caution and give them their space! It's a beautiful sight to see. I highly recommend it!



12/29/2016

💩 i cneck-in

Austin continues to impress me with the most gorgeous green spaces and officeat attractions that gives the city its charm. Here in Mayfield Park, I feel like you are in for a fantastic photo op right next to some peacocks.

The park is free to roam and there is a lot to explore here. There is an entire area dedicated to the colorful birds with a small little house and picnic seating available. It makes for some great pictures on a nice sunny day. Going deeper into the park, you'll find cascading sights at a miniature lake situated in the middle of a small hike down.

There were people of all ages roaming around and going about their days. Hove parks like these and am happy that Austin makes it such a priority to ensure these spaces remain as good as they are for locals and visitors.

if you can't find parking inside the entrance, the street right outside will hopefully have some spots for you.





See all photos from Andy N. for Mayfieki Park



473 reviews
421 photos

11/27/2016

🦃 1 check-in

It's free, it has free parking, and it's got peafowl! I'm sure some of them are peacocks but I didn't get that close of a look. Even though it was a gloomy overcast day in Austin while I was there, I saw many of them perched on the trees.

I hate to take off a star from a free nature preserve but they really don't have anything remotely friendly for visitors. The water fountain there is pretty much all rust; I didn't see any bathrooms; no history of the park or guide, etc. It was only after I left that I discovered there was a pathway and other hidden places so a volunteer guide or something would have been nice. If nothing else, they could keep the kids out of the roped off areas since parents can't tell their precious snowflakes to behave.

Still, if you're in the area, come visit.



Peafowl





Peafowl

Peafowl



11/21/2016

Seriously, I love this place. I've spent hours wandering behind peacocks and venturing down awesome trails, and to top it off-it's free.



10/26/2016

1 check-in

In the mood for something different? Check out Mayfield Park for a scenic detour to unplug for awhile. When you're on the grounds, feel free to wander, take in all the botanical beauty, and hang out with the peacocks and turtles. Yep yep. Not your average park.

We didn't have time to explore the trails available but from what I could see, there are plenty to see and explore within this park.





A gorgeous path

Peacocks everywhere!





Elito 17



Mayfield Park was definitely one of the best tralls went to during my trip to Austin. We came here in search of the peacocks we had heard about and we ended up hiking for an hour or more looking for them only to find that they had been next to where we parked all along...WHOOPS, how did we miss that?? Anyways the hike was worth it, it was very scenic and we had a fun time. The peacocks were a nice addition to the hike; they were very relaxed and comfortable with people being so close to them. I highly recommend coming to Mayfield Park if you're from out of town like we are and searching for a good trail.









Elite 17

10/1/2016

🦚 1 check-in

This is a cool place to mingle with peacock! This time of year they are not in full plumage but they are still really pretty. The weather is perfect for walking the gardens and seeing the beautiful flowers and fish pends.

Best thing is its a free outing. Bring a book, picnic, out of town visitors and enjoy the park!







See all photos from Sophia B, for Mayfield Park





Gail A. Austin, TX 154 friends 120 reviews 279 photos

Elite 17

#### 9/20/2016

Five stars for this incredible park, do not forget to explore the trails on the opposite side of the parking lot. They will take you down into a beautiful and enchanted area, and you have the option to visit and amazing small dock. Three stars for the lousy bathroom facility that was there when I visited, an outhouse that had a horrible smell, no toilet paper, and a long line as well. Yuck. Three stars for the horrible parking situation, not enough

spots for a park like this.

Also included in this experience, are interesting community gardens. Peacocks are interesting, but beware that the excitement of looking at them does tend to wear off after five minutes, they are worth seeing, but there is much much more to this park than the peacocks.





Austin C. Austin, TX 81 friends 248 reviews 152 photos END: 197

9/17/2016

a 1 check-in

PEACOCK! So this is a total hidden gem that I was really glad to visit on one of my first weeks in Austin a few years back. I take everyone here and I'm surprised how many locals don't know about this park. There are quite a few free roaming peacocks here. They're very tame. It's a must for anyone with kids. They'll love it. It also makes a great date. You can even hike some trails here. Parking is kind of limited, but I've never had it be a problem. Just be careful because there's one dedicated entrance and one dedicated exit. Don't go out or in the wrong one!



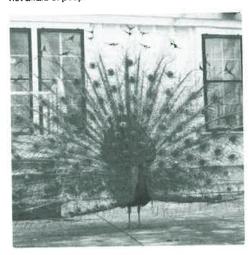
#### Twee R Honolulu, HI

- 0 friends
- 14 reviews
- 15 photos



Nice tiny park with many peacocks. It's free so that's a plus.

It's a wonderful to see those peacooks around and they r not afraid of people.







#### Austin, TX

- 209 friends
- 290 reviews
- 6 589 photos

Elite '17

7/11/2016

i check-in

Located at the foot of Mount Bonnell, Mayfield Park provides the best peacock watching experience you'll ever have, guaranteed. The peacocks here are so friendly and chill that it's hard to believe they're even real.

There are 2 sections to this "park": the trail and the garden. If you're here for a hike, head to the back. If you're here for the peacocks, head to the side visitor entrance gate.

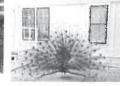
The garden itself is not that big. Plan for a 30 min to an hour long stay at most, which is great since you don't have to dedicate an entire afternoon for the trip. Maybe drop by after visiting Mount Bonnell or right before dinner.

If you have young kids, don't bother bringing a stroller. The pathways are not that stroller friendly. It would be better to just hold them while walking around. The peacocks are just freely roaming around the whole garden. Don't be surprised to see them perched up on a tree or the roof of the gazebo. They are birds after all. Also, there's no restrooms so plan accordingly.



Oh hi, it's you again.





Why did the peacock cross the road?

Gorgeous.

See all photos from Aron Y. for Mayfield Park





#### Colin D. Washington, DC

- 24 friends 517 reviews
- 51 photos
- Elite '17

6/26/2016



This place is great to come and hang out. It's particularly cook for any visitors you might have and/or toddlers--both of whom will love the novelty of the peacocks, but for different reasons (looking vs. chasing). The gardens are also gorgeous and it's shaded enough to keep it somewhat cool even in the summer. I need to explore the trails more.





Isaac J. Austin, TX 19 friends

- 3 reviews
- 1 photo

5/29/2016

Great if you have kids or if you like walking around in the woods from the Blair witch project . Over grown trails and water less lakes not my idea of a good time.







Angela W. Austin, TX 119 friends

105 reviews



🧆 1 check-in

This little gem is hidden behind the awe of tourist or locals wanting to check out Mount Bonnell. So if you want to do a quick hike up the stairs of Mount Bonnell to check out the scenic views perfect. But make sure you swing by the Mayfield Park to do a quick walk through the luscious greener which kind of remind me of the swamp lands. But then make your way over to the gated area where the most beautiful peacocks are just freely roaming the land or climbing on the cottage roof. These elegant creatures honestly come in all different colors, so being white and some have the gargeous colorful tails. Must see place that is worth the 20 minute hang out session with any guest.



198



#### 5/12/2016

Serene place with a plethora of peacocks. A great family visit, or a place to sit and contemplate your life. Close to Mt. Bonnell so you can make it a 2-in-1 trip!



453 friends 968 reviews 8639 photos

Ellte 117



🧶 1 check-in

This place is so cool! It is free to get in and there were tons of birds just walking around inside. There were three peacocks that we spotted and they were just walking the grounds like they owned it. It was a very fun spot to visit while we were in this neck of the woods!! I would love to come back here with more company to just hang out and watch the birds!

See all 282

Find tacos, cheap dinner, Max's Near Austin, TX, US Restaurants Nightlife **Home Services** Write a Review Eventa Talk yelp: Mayfield Park Unclaimed 138 reviews Details Parks / Edit Man data COULT Goods 9 3505 W 35th St @ Edit **Austin, TX 78703** Tarryton/Exposition Blvd. Get Directions (512) 974-6797 Photo of Mayfield Park - Asst TX, United States by Hollie B. (3 mayhaldpark.org "There is very limited parking so if you are coming for an event I recommend showing up hella early and enjoying the grounds." in 15 reviews "A nice little park that's like a tucked away little haven - and it has percocks too!" in 109 reviews Hours

(5) Today 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Open now Work here? Claim this business Mon 5:00 am - 10:00 pm 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Tue Wed 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Thu 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Fri 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Sat 5:00 am - 10:00 pm Open now 5:00 am - 10:00 pm D Edit business info More business info Parking Private Lot Bike Parking Yes Good for Kids Yes Sand to your Phone Susie G. First to review You might also consider People also viewed Town Lake Metropolitan Parks 2 2 2 2 2 170 reviews It's fun to walk and see events getting set up on Auditorium

Shores--concerts, flugtag...



Yelp users haven't asked any questions yet about Mayfield Park.

Gloria next door," in 6 reviews

#### Recommended Reviews for Mayfield Park

Your trust is our top concern, so businesses can't pay to after or remove their reviews. Learn more. Search within the reviews Sort by Newest First " Language English (138) "

"If you follow it far enough, the creek trail will take you onto the grounds of Laguna

SH B. Austin, TX 0 friends 66 reviews Start your review of Mayfield Park.



#### 2 2 2 2 2 4/6/2016

Kind of awesome! The peacocks are the main attraction and they are indeed beautiful photo ops. But I also enjoyed walking the woodland paths. Some take you down by the river (no van) for a nice view. Hiking amongst the trees right in the middle of the city is a wonderful thing!



#### 4/5/2016

lovely park, fun trails and creek, perfect for families to explore and watch the peacocks.





Sandy C. Austin, TX

- 109 friends
- 41 reviews
- 99 photos

#### 4/3/2016

Great level 1 hiking spot! The peacock siting is also a plus! Very cute place to spend the afternoon.







Mating seasons





#### 3/24/2016

Such a beautiful small park, it seems to be still hidden from all the tourist because every time I go it's not ever crowded. The peacocks are beautiful, if you can going during March because it's mating season and they'll open their feathers for you!



McKinney Falls State Park

129 reviews

We niked the homestead trail, then went over to the upper falls area.



Mount Bonnell

268 reviews

Great easy hike, beautiful view of the Colorado river.

#### Lists including Mayfield Park



5 Stars
Places I can always count on when I'm in that city:)
58 businesses



Yeip 100 Challenge i got off to a late start but focused on a strong finish... 127 businesses



Fun In Austin

Here are some of the great places I went to on my trip to Austin!
5 businesses

More Lists

#### Browse nearby



Y Nightlife

Shopping

\*\*\* Show all

#### Work at Mayfield Park? Claim your business

- Respond to reviews and customer messages
- Claiming is free, and only takes a minute

People found Mayfield Park by searching for...

Tent Camping Austin

Walking Trails Austin

Toddler Activities Austin







Ebte 17

3/22/2016 1 check-in

Gorgeous park with trails of lake/creek views!

Also adorable peacocks by the cottage, make sure to not bring your pets to this park!





Elita 117

2/18/2016 1 check-in

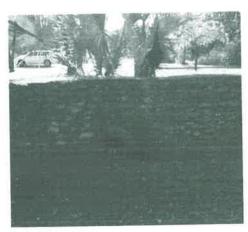
I did not think I would like it here, but I had a surprising good time. There is something calming about seeing the peacocks, and relaxing if you want to walk some trails as well. An unexpected good time for kids and adults alike.

#### Good:

- -The space is scenic and peaceful
- -The peacocks walk about and seem to not mind posing for the camera
- -If you don't want to look at the peacocks, you can choose from a few trails to walk  $\,$
- -Private parking lot
- -The grounds are picturesque already, seeing peacocks is an added bonus

#### Bad:

-None



Beautiful park and peacocks.





#### Bibiano L Austin, TX 10 friends

- 112 reviews
- 📵 12 photos

#### 1/30/2016

Truly a hidden gem, casis in the middle of hectic noisy city life. The only sounds emanating from this park is that of 4 peacocks cowing one another. There are multiple walking trails around nearby lagoon. Note: There is only one entrance and one exit. Trails are open dawn to dusk.





#### Sarah S. Austin, TX

- 120 reviews
- 60 photos

#### 1/22/2016

Gorgeous I Great for a trip with the kids, or hiking, or a photo shoot. Not so good for lunch Iol. The peacecks wanted our food and were not shy at all about it!:)





0 friends

7 reviews

#### **12/11/2**015

Pleasant and tranquil place to walk around, hang out with some (scratch that, a lot of) peacocks, sit by the lily ponds, and go for some walks/hikes in the attached trail area.

Brought my friend who was visiting Austin here after we went to Mt. Bonnell and she really enjoyed seeing the peacocks. Felt like a unique & special experience.

Like another reviewer, one time I was walking on some of the trails and was walking/climbing up a rather steep rocky area until I realized i was at the base of a pedestrian bridge and the backyard of a large house! That was unexpected. Perhaps some signs there would help people avoid that area. I felt bad for semi-trespassing on their backyard!





Vania K. Seattle, WA 562 friends 570 reviews

352 photos

11/3/2015

🦈 1 check-in

III Listed in Touristy Things in Austin

A very serene park with 100% chance of peacock (and peahen) sighting. We came here on a Tuesday afternoon and it was practically empty. We were a lazy bunch and didn't walk through the trail. Instead, we went through the visitor entrance toward Mayfield House and looked around the well maintained yard, where there were a few ponds and a bunch of super chill peacocks and peahens. Maybe I'm easily amused, but I had fun just watching the peacocks: who knew they could fly up to the trees? Are they just surviving on their own? Who's taking care of them? SO MANY QUESTIONS.



Super chill peacocks





Lorrie M. San Jose, CA 3264 friends 2930 reviews

259 photos

11/3/2015

1 check-in

I need to qualify this because I'm not giving Mayfield Park 4 stars for the peacocks. Sure, they're there, but there was all of like 3-4 and some of them looked like they could use a little sprucing up or needed some additional care. I'm not sure how the previous photos of this place included so many ....

However, this place is amazing! It's definitely an incredible sanctuary even if you're not here for the animal encounters. There are many gorgeous ponds, great little benches and resting places, and generally extremely green. I loved how pretty everything was here.

I definitely recommend this place, not for the peacocks but for the gorgeous display of nature & man made ponds.





Kristin M.
Stockton, CA
38 friends

38 mend 1 review 10/11/2015

Love the peacocks! Every time I am in Austin, my mom and I stop to check on these beautiful creatures. Definitely a fun place to stop for a quick minute or stay for hours and just get a way, while enjoying the beauty of the peacocks and garden-like grounds..



9/23/2015

E Listed in Keep Austin Ward

Ever see a peacock chilling in a tree? I personally hadn't. Apparently when it rains, peacocks like to take cover in trees. I thought it was pretty cool.

The parking lot is small so I can imagine it gets full on busy days. Luckily it was raining when we went so there was barely anyone around.

We came after visiting Mount Bonnell first. It's about a ~5 minute drive from there. We left in about 10 minutes because it started raining. There are trails and ponds here that I wish we had been able to check out. But we forgot our umbrelias. Mother nature wins this time.



Peacock taking cover from the rain in a tree



9/3/2015

We went in August, so the peacocks were lazing around but I could imagine how fun it could be if they were opening their feathers!!

The peacocks are at the visitor center area and there is so many!! Definitely a nice place to spend an hour or so.



Elite '17

8/31/2015 E Listed in Yein 163 Linn 3015

For peace and quiet, except for the occasional screaming rug rat with inattentive parents, this is a great spot. For well behaved kids it is a great experience. Just be ready to answer a lot of "What is that?" and "Why?" questions. You will have plenty of opportunity to take some beautiful pictures. Love it! Bring your camera here! If you have a Macro Lens, this is a place to use it. Hey! Don't get too close to that giant stink bug! :-)



Kendrick R Columbia, MD & 67 friends

12 reviews
18 photos

8/18/2015

1 check-in

My dad and I had a 20 minute discussion about peacocks being a part of the turkey family. Go ahead you try and figure it out. We went through probably about 15 different websites debating it. Any who, back on topic, peacocks are cool. We had just finished up at a nearby military museum and were like let's go look at these beautiful birds. I'll tell ya what, if this isn't proof that dinosaurs evolved into birds I don't know what is. Go. Take the kids! Bring some bird seed or peanuts (unsalted). Enjoy some dope flowers and pond life. Met a really friendly turtle named him Jacob (Jake for short). He's my friend. I gave him my address I just hope he writes like he promised to. It's hot In Texas, shocker, would suggest going not at the hottest time of day as I did. Learn from my mistake people. That being said there's lots of shade to hide in. Overall don't expect much from these birds they're beautiful to look at, but they're not going to be performing any circus tricks or spread the wings because you made some clicking noise. Had fun, but probably wouldn't go again unless I have kids aged 8 and under.





Gloria Juliane A. Houston, TX

1 friend

27 reviews
26 photos

7/26/2015

Me and my husband really enjoyed taking a walk through the park and looking at all the lovely peacocks hanging about everywhere. It was very nice.







6/26/2015

1 check-in

Located almost right next to Mount Bonnell, Mayfield Park is a cute little place with peacocks roaming around at will. Yup, peacocks(III) who somehow don't leave the park and aren't disturbed by tourists gaping at them at all. This time I went, I had the luck to see a peacock display all of its tail feathers on the top of the small house located in the park. I haven't been down the trail, having just learned about its existence (whoops), but the area where the peacocks roam has a few ponds and an area of flowers and will definitely keep you entertained.

Pro tip: if you go when the sun isn't so high up in the sky, make sure to wear bug spray because the mosquitos here are killer.



6/20/2015

A nice little park that's like a tucked away little haven - and it has peacocks too! All for free!

There are some stone paved and sandy gravel walkways surrounding multiple small ponds with tily pads and other plants growing in the ponds. There's also a round/cylindrical castle thingy with a pointy roof. There is actually a pretty decent amount of shade from the trees, which is great.

The peacocks were really coci. They are quite loud when they start squawking, but they are magnificent. I think there were at least 4 male peacocks and at least 2 females. They just hang out, walk around, jump on the roofs of the buildings, walk around in the trees, eat, and of course occasionally display their signature male tail plumage.

This is the kind of place where you can stop by and spend just 10 minutes if you're in a rush or you can spend like half the day here just lounging around and enjoying the grass/sun/shade/park-ness.

One warning - we saw a rather large, dark colored snake slithering around among the plants. So be careful.



## trowel & error

### Symposium Gardening Mayneld

Saturday, April 1, 2017 9.30am - 1pm

SO, West 39th Street

# Mayfield Gardening Symposium

Pest-free Organically

Jay White

Contributing editor for Texas Gardener, Masters in horticulture

Saturday, April 1, 2017 From Microgreens to Hay Bales Tiny Garden / Small Garden:

Texas master gardener vegetable specialist. contributing editor for Texas Gardener Patty Leander

9:30am to 1pm Rain or shine

"Develop" Ourstanding Digital Pictures Pictures: A Few Simple Tricks to It's a Snap to Take Good Garden 12 noon

Biotechnology, art, photography, golf, "son of" the Photographer in Residence at Lady Bird Wildflower Center Bruce Leander

MeCGNNIE SCOIL Friends of Reed Park

Pass Along Plant Sale and House & Garden Tours. We will also feature a Gardener's Dream Raffle,

For more information contact (512) 453-7074 necnoka aol.com or mayfieldpurk.org

Friends of the Parks of Austin



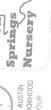
We are

Disabilities Act. If you require special assistance for participation in our The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with

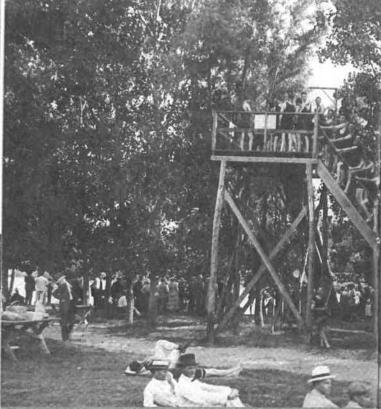
programs or use of our facilities, please call (512)974-3914.











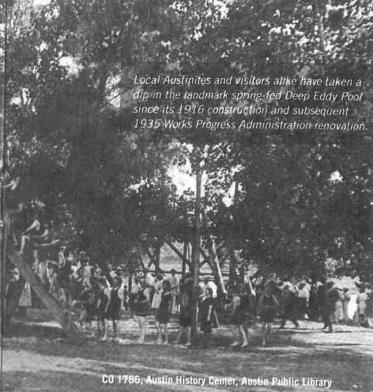
#### 6 WEST AUSTIN

#### HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

The Balcones Escarpment, a dramatic uplift that runs along the west side of downtown Austin, has long been a desirable place for homes, from antebellum plantations and freedman's communities to showplaces for the wealthy of several generations. National Register historic neighborhoods Old West Austin, West Line and Clarksville contain more than 2,000 contributing properties. *Private residences, viewable from the street. Approximate boundary: West Sixth Street to West 35th Street, Lamar Boulevard to MoPac.* 

#### DEEP EDDY POOL

Just west of Loop 1, Sixth Street becomes Lake Austin Boulevard, leading to a landmark swimming pool, Built in 1916 and spring-fed, it replaced a once-popular swimming hole in the Colorado River (now Lady Bird Lake). A 1935 Works Progress Administration project improved the pool and added a bathhouse. Eilers Park and the Lady Bird Lake trail adjoin the pool. 401 Deep Eddy Ave. 512-472-8546. Small admission fee. austintexas.gov.



West 35th Street, west of Loop 1, leads to four more historic sites:

#### **CAMP MABRY**

This 800-acre site has been a military center since 1892. The camp also houses the Texas Military Forces Museum in a 1918 building. 2200 W. 35th St. 512-782-5659. Free. texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org.

#### LAGUNA GLORIA

The Contemporary Austin art museum makes its home in this 1916 Mediterranean villa. Its romantic setting makes it a popular place for weddings and parties. 3809 W. 35th St. 512-458-8191. Small donation suggested. thecontemporaryaustin.org.

#### MAYFIELD PARK

Adjacent to Laguna Gloria is a 23-acre nature preserve with wooded trails and a historic cottage. 3505 W. 35th St. Free. mayfieldpark.org.

#### MOUNT BONNELL

The historic hilltop has a magnificent view of Lake Austin and surrounding hills. 3851 Mount Bonnell Rd. Free, austinparks.org.

## MAYFIELD PARK NEWS

acre wooded estate on Old Bull Creek Road for all Austinites to enjoy as a park. Friends of the Parks of Austin is sponsoring the In 1971, Mary Mayfield Gutsch presented Austin with her 23restoration of the Mayfield-Gutsch house and gardens to the height of their development circa 1920s-1950s

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! APRIL 1, 2017

spring gardening symposium, promises to be a banner event filled with exciting, famous garden goodie raffle, herrloom Trowel & Error, Mayfield's annual energetic, and interactive speakers, our Patty Leander will be our featured speakto tricks for "developing" outstanding plant sale and more. Back by popular demand, Jay White, Bruce Leander and ers, lecturing on topics from microgreens garden digital pictures.

## ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FREES

A tree survey of the 439 trees that grow in Mayfield Cottage and Gardens was created as part of the recently completed Historic Landscape Treatment Plan.

A "first ever" pruning and thinning of the area immediately outside the visitor entrance was completed as part of MP/CP's continuing effort to predeep fertilizing of the legacy live oak Also undertaken was a much-needed tree in the front lawn of Mayfield Cotserve the precious trees at Mayfield.

## \* LITTLE BY LITTLE

After 85 years, the rock walls surrounding the 2 acres of Mayfield Cottage and Gutsch's husband, Milton, and their gardener, Estaban Arredondo, are crumbling in year, thanks to your support and a grant of \$22,434.00 from Austin Parks Foundamany sections. MP/CP has undertaken the enormous task of repairing and restoring large areas of the 4 ft. high walls in phases as funds become available. Earlier this Gardens are showing their age. These walls, built in the 1920s by Mary Mayfield Plans are in the works for further phases in the continuing process of preserving these historic walls, again, as funds tion, Brian Ash, noted historic rock mason, was able to become available from the community and from grants. restore two 20-30 foot sections of the perimeter walls.

